

Testimony of Deborah Roe

In Support of HB 5285: **AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

3/3/22

As an environmental advocate and former public school teacher, I am writing in support of a bill requiring the teaching of a curriculum on climate change. Our children are going to be in the fight of their lives in the coming years and having a basic understanding of what climate change is, how it occurs, and its impacts will be essential in determining the outcome for their communities and the planet.

At the current time, science education in most schools, at least at the elementary school level, is woefully inadequate. The curriculum is focused so much on reading, writing, and math (and often “teaching to the test”) that other equally important subjects are left out altogether. There is a false perception that if time is spent on science, social studies, etc. that there is not enough time for students to gain proficiency in reading, writing, and math.

It is not time that is lacking but rather creative instruction which incorporates integrated lesson planning. For example, a group of lessons related to the water cycle could easily encompass reading, writing, math, science, social studies and even art. This type of teaching is likely to lead to improved outcomes. Teaching skills within a context, helps to provide more meaning for students. And a good dose of scientific experimentation goes a long way toward peaking student interest. In addition to reading written materials on the topic of climate change, these students should be engaged in hands-on-activities that will help them better understand how nature works.

Please make sure that our children are as prepared as possible for the future.

Deborah Roe

16 Woodland Drive

Granby, CT